



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
78th Air Base Wing (AFMC)
Robins Air Force Base, Georgia**

Jan. 18, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION A

FROM: 78 ABW/CC

SUBJECT: Policy Letter Regarding the Review of Landscaping Plans

1. This policy establishes procedures for ensuring that landscaping projects at Robins Air Force Base are implemented in a manner that is in concert with the base's established grounds maintenance procedures, and is consistent with both published guidance regarding landscaping procedures, and with appropriate horticultural and arboricultural (i.e., the cultivation of trees) practices for middle Georgia.
2. Landscaping plans at Robins often are implemented without any type of formal review by those who are knowledgeable concerning base landscaping problems and contracting issues. New landscaping frequently is not incorporated within the base grounds maintenance contract. As a result, no one is charged with maintaining these plants once they have been planted. New landscaping designs often utilize plants that either do not thrive in Georgia, or are sited in locations where they would not survive. These designs also utilize plants that require excessive maintenance to ward off problems associated with pests, disease, and drought stress. Other problems include the planting of invasive, exotic species that spread rapidly beyond the confines of their point of establishment, and the planting of species near the airfield that attract birds and other wildlife, creating hazards for aircrews and aircraft. These problems can lead to dead plants, damaged property, wasted money, and unnecessary work for personnel charged with maintaining the health of Robins' landscape.
3. Prior to their implementation, all landscaping plans shall be reviewed and endorsed by both WR-ALC/EMX and 78 CES/CEOEC. This includes plans for the planting of trees, shrubs, flowers, turfgrass, and other types of ground cover. The POC for landscaping issues is Bob Sargent, WR-ALC/EMX, 6-1197, ext. 156.

JAMES J. MECSICS
Colonel, USAF
Commander